

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158678  
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/CLOUSTAUNAU  
APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CD:WERAU  
COM/BIC/CAGNE/PHALE  
COM/BIC/CAGNE/ALAEMMERZAH  
STATE/NEA/AFN/ALEGGIO  
NEA/RA:DMORRISON (INFO)

-----104786 081604Z /56

R 081449Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 158678

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, TS

SUBJECT: MISKAR: TUNISIAN NATURAL GAS PROJECT

REF: TUNIS 3408 AND PREVIOUS

1. GULF INTERSTATE ENGINEERING (GIE) REPRESENTATIVE HAS  
HEARD FROM HIS TUNISIAN SOURCES THAT SEVERAL QUOTE DESIGN  
TYPE UNQUOTE CONTRACTS FOR MISKAR GAS PROJECT HAVE BEEN  
AWARDED TO FRENCH FIRMS. NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE AVAILABLE  
ON SPECIFICS OF CONTRACTS OR WHICH FIRMS RECEIVED THE  
AWARDS.

2. GIE, IN JOINT-VENTURE WITH RAYMOND INTERNATIONAL, AND  
SEVERAL OTHER U.S. COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY SPENT GREAT DEAL  
OF TIME AND MONEY ON THIS PROJECT. EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE  
LARGELY BECAUSE TUNISIANS HAVE PROCLAIMED, TO EMBASSY AND  
TO USDOC (DURING REKIK'S MEETING WITH CAGNE MARCH 2), THAT  
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THEY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING U.S. FIRMS PARTICIPATE  
IN PROJECT. IF CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO FRENCH  
FIRMS WITHOUT GOING TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER,  
NUMBER OF U.S. COMPANIES, AND USG AGENCIES, WILL BE MOST  
RELUCTANT IN FUTURE TO MAKE EFFORT TO PURSUE LARGE INDUS-  
TRIAL PROJECTS IN TUNISIA SINCE COUNTRY WOULD SEEM TO BE  
IRRETRIEVABLY TIED TO FRENCH.

3. REFTTEL INDICATED DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF MISKAR GAS FIELD, AND TENDERS ON ENGINEERING FOR DRILLING PLATFORM, DUE SHORTLY. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT ON CURRENT STATUS OF PROJECT AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO GIE'S INFORMATION THAT SOME CONTRACTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN AWARDED TO FRENCH. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Drafter:** BIC/CAGNE/CLOUSTAUNAU  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**To:** TUNIS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
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